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Illinois State Police Forensic Science Residency Program

George H. Ryan
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The Forensic Science Residency Program

**A Unique, Innovative, Cooperative
Program Between the Illinois State
Police and the University of Illinois
for Educating and Training New
Forensic Scientists**

The Illinois State Police Forensic Sciences Command operates a system of eight operational laboratories. The laboratory system is ASCLD/LAB-accredited (since 1982), and has long operated a highly structured, academically based, training program for new analysts in various criminalistics specialty areas.

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University of Illinois at Chicago



The University of Illinois at Chicago has a research-based 38-credit-hour Master of Science program in forensic science. The average student has 9-12 semester hours of elective courses. The elective course hours provide a framework in which to place the residency experience.

Beginning in August of 2000, the University of Illinois at Chicago and the Illinois State Police will inaugurate a formal, cooperative program in which Master of Science students can receive Illinois State Police training in a specialty area as part of their Master of Science degree studies. The residency program will be an option for students — some may not qualify under the background check, and some may not choose this track.

This novel approach to forensic science education integrates theory and practice in a new way, one never attempted before in the United States. It promises to provide a stream of Master of Science degree recipients who are also fully

trained in a specialty area, and ready for supervised casework in any forensic science laboratory in the nation. This educational model is made possible by the proximity and close working relationship between the University of Illinois at Chicago and the Illinois State Police and will help serve the future employment needs of the Illinois State Police and other forensic science laboratories in the nation. It is anticipated that the first group of students will complete the program in 2001.



UIC Criteria for Forensic Science Residency Program Sites

Residency will be an academic credit-bearing course. The university will place students who have been selected and accepted into residencies with the expectation that:

The residency program offered contains appropriate academically-based content and outcome testing, i.e., the program will follow a written content outline, will require relevant reading to supplement lecture material, and will require a defined level of performance on written, oral or practical tests, or some appropriate combination of them, to pass.

Successful completion of the program (and thus, awarding of a Satisfactory grade in the academic course) requires a defined level of performance.

Students will be engaged in meaningful didactic experiences during each full work week of a predefined period or at least one academic semester (the specific period being a function of the specialty area), under the direct instruction or supervision of activities by a coordinator who is responsible for handling no more than eight such individuals at a time.

The agency conducting the residency will provide students successfully completing the program with appropriate documentation of that successful completion.

For Additional Information Contact:

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Sample Residency Program in Forensic Toxicology

<u>Exercise</u>	<u>Residency</u>
Orientation (Residency-laboratory specific aspects)	3 days
Instrumentation:	
Gas Chromatography	15 days
Mass Spectroscopy	15 days
Separations	13 days
Thin Layer Chromatography	7 days
Immunoassay	12 days
Color Tests	2 days
UV/Visible Spectrophotometry	9 days
Atomic Absorption	4 days
High Pressure Liquid Chromatography	11 days
Ethanol and other Volatiles	14 days
Drug Quantitation	17 days
SUBTOTAL:	122 days
Miscellaneous	
Courtroom Demeanor	2 days
Method Development (Optional)*	Variable
Practice Competency Test	10 days
Criterion Test	20 days
General Unknowns	
Final Written Examination	
Final Oral Examination-Mock Trial	
TOTAL:	154 days

Method development is used presently to give the new analyst a chance to engage in some research. This could be used to allow the student to complete a project for their thesis. The time involved would be variable and the project would have to be of thesis quality.

This residency program would be approximately eight months long (without the optional research project added). The student would earn eight credit hours toward their degree. They would have completed the training program to the point of supervised casework. If hired by a forensic laboratory, they should be able to start directly with initial competencies and supervised casework for a defined period of time.